

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DAMION RICHIE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Damion Richie for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Damion Richie is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Damion Richie is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Damion Richie for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN C. FLETCHER, THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS PAUL "HOOK" O'MALLEY MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor John C. Fletcher, who will be named the Man of the Year by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 at their annual gathering on March 1, 2022.

John, the son of the late Elizabeth Charles and Bill E. Fletcher, was born on April 2, 1955 in Niagara Falls, New York. He, along with his three siblings, Bob, Linda, and Beth, attended Niagara Falls schools. In 1972, Bill moved his family to Scranton where he opened Fletcher's Hilltop Garage on Jackson Street. John graduated from Scranton High School as a member of the Class of 1972, and in 1973, he enlisted in the Army, earning the rank of specialist E4.

Following an honorable discharge from the Army in 1977, John enrolled at Lackawanna Junior College and earned an associate degree in business management. He put his degree to work by helping his father run the family gas station. John was then offered a position at Tobyhanna Army Depot where he was employed for 11 years.

With retirement on the horizon for his father, John resigned from Tobyhanna Army Depot to return to the family business in 1989. He kept the family business running with his brother, Bob, and, this year, the garage will celebrate its 50th anniversary of servicing vehicles in West Scranton.

John has always been an active member of his community, generously lending his time and talents to many organizations to support their mission. He is a former parishioner of St. David's Church and currently attends St. Patrick's Church in West Scranton where he is also a member of the Holy Name Society. He has been a longtime supporter of youth sports, volunteering his time to Little League baseball and the Trips Park Miss E League. John is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and a 30-year member of the Scranton Pool League. John has also served three decades as a judge of elections. Seeking to connect with his Irish heritage, he joined with his fellow Irish American Scrantonians to charter the Ancient Order of Hibernians Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4. Throughout the history of the Division, he has held many offices and is the current Shillelagh Man of the Year. His brothers in the Division recognize him as a dedicated and beloved member who would do anything for his fellow members or community at large.

John is the proud father of five children, Nina, Jonathan, Matt, Megan, and Ryan. He is known for being a loving father, a loyal friend, and for caring deeply about his fellow citizens.

I am honored to join with the Ancient Order of Hibernians Paul "Hook" O'Malley Division 4 in recognizing John as the Man of the Year. Selfless and hard-working Americans like John make our region a better place to live and work, and I am grateful for his service to his country and his community.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, as the world contends with multiple crises—from Ukraine to Yemen to Afghanistan and so many others—I feel it is important to pause and take time today to remember what is at stake and remind ourselves why our fight for a peaceful world free of violence, discrimination, and hate is so important.

February 27th to the 29th marks the 34th anniversary of the Sumgait Pogrom which took place during the collapse of the Soviet Union in the Azerbaijan SSR. The massacres—part of a wider tragic history of intercommunal conflict between ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis—marked one of the first major outbreaks of ethnic-based violence as the USSR began to disintegrate.

On this, the 34th anniversary, our world still struggles with the evils of war, nationalism and unjustifiable hatred. I take, and encourage all my colleagues to take, this opportunity to recommit my pledge to do all I can to ensure that events like the never again occur.

We have a lot of work to do. Let's move forward more committed than ever for the fight

for a peaceful world rooted in a love for all people.

AMOR FERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amor Fernandez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Amor Fernandez is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amor Fernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amor Fernandez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING ROCHELLE "BUBBI" BERMAN ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BYRON DONALDS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations in honor of Rochelle Berman, affectionately known by her family as "Bubbi," who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Born on November 3, 1931 to Jacob and Rose Sattler, Rochelle was raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin alongside her brother, Robert "Bobby" Sattler, a World War II veteran. Rochelle graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1953 and became a teacher for the 3rd and 4th grades.

In 1956, Rochelle met her future husband Alexander (Al) Berman. After a first date to Disneyland, Rochelle and Alexander were later married on July 14, 1957. Rochelle and Al had 3 children together: James (Jimmy), Janet, and Gary. Rochelle is the matriarch of the Berman family: grandmother to 11 and great-grandmother (or "Bibi") to 3. Jimmy and his late wife Marla had three kids together: Al-lison, Leigh, and David. Jimmy went on to marry Jayne and welcomed Lauren and Lexi into the family. Janet built a family with Jay Miller and together they have three children: Tova, Ezra, and Miriam; two sons-in-law: Shmueli and Zevy; and three grandchildren:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Rafi, Dani, and Eli. Gary married Jennifer and together they had Mia, Josie, and Elliot. Rochelle's family continues to grow, with Ezra's recent engagement to Ariella. And of course, we can't forget Rochelle's love of dogs and her furry family members, past and present: Buddy, Oscar, Sunny, B.J., Cooper, Bailey, Becker, and Hercules.

Splitting time between Marco Island, Florida, in my district, and Mequon, Wisconsin, Rochelle has lived a life filled with love, friends, and family. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring an outstanding citizen, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and cherished friend, Ms. Rochelle Berman, for the inspiring life that she leads. We extend our best wishes to her as she, her family, and friends celebrate her 90th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I was not present for yesterday's roll call votes in the House, and I wish to state how I would have voted on all three bills had I been present. As a cosponsor of all three measures, I would have proudly voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 48: H.R. 2116, the "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act"; YEA on Roll Call No. 47: H.R. 55, the "Emmett Till Antilynching Act"; and YEA on Roll Call No. 46: S. 321, the "Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act".

ELIJAH EISON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Elijah Eison for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Elijah Eison is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Elijah Eison is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Elijah Eison for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING YANINA NICKLESS AS STATE OF THE UNION GUEST

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Yanina Nickless, who is my invited guest for President Biden's 2022 State of the Union address. Yanina lives in my district, but her family is home in Ukraine fighting for their lives and for democracy amid Russian invasion.

For the past week, Vladimir Putin has attempted to violently overthrow a sovereign democracy. But it's the countless examples of courage by Ukrainians like Yanina's family that has united the free world—rallying behind democracy and against autocracy—as the Ukraine people defend their homeland. As Yanina told me, "Every day I wake up, I hope my parents wake up too. I'm staying strong for them and for my country and I believe in the USA and in the world. Thank you, Congresswoman PINGREE and President Biden, for not being silent and for supporting a democracy in Ukraine. Ukrainians will never forget."

It is truly an honor to have Yanina join me tonight as President Biden further unites our nation with his State of the Union address. Yanina and her family's heartbreaking story deserves to be heard on the global stage—joining a chorus of courage in the fight for freedom. Under President Biden's leadership, the U.S. stands firmly against Russia's unprovoked war.

WELCOME HOME VETERANS DAY

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and include in the RECORD a proclamation from the County Commission of Fall River County, South Dakota, designating March 29, 2022, as "Welcome Home Veterans Day."

A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MARCH 29, 2022, AS "WELCOME HOME VETERANS DAY"
(By Fall River County Commission)

Whereas, the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with the United States Armed Forces and South Vietnam; and

Whereas, the United States became involved in Vietnam because policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a Communist government then Communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role in the South Vietnamese in 1961; and

Whereas, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2, 1964, and August 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over war-making powers to President Johnson until such time as "peace and security" had returned to Vietnam; and

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached; and

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

Whereas, on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

Whereas, more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and

Whereas, members of the United States Armed Forces, who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War, were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, it was also the first time in history America failed to welcome its veterans back as heroes; and

Whereas, the establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, Hot Springs, SD, in Fall River County is known as the Veterans Town; and

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Fall River County Commissioners do hereby recognize March 29, 2022, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." The Fall River County Commissioners further honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans of the Armed Forces who served in Vietnam."

DESTINY BEAUMONT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destiny Beaumont for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Destiny Beaumont is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destiny Beaumont is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Destiny Beaumont for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY
SERGEANT HOWARD R. BELDEN
FOR HIS BRAVE SACRIFICE AT
THE BATTLE OF CHOSIN RES-
ERVOIR DURING THE KOREAN
WAR

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of United States Army Sergeant Howard R. Belden. At the age of nineteen, Sergeant Belden gave his life in service to this nation at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. After nearly seventy-one years, Sergeant Belden's remains were accounted for on October 14, 2021.

Sergeant Belden was born in 1931 to James and Esther Belden. Shortly after the conclusion of World War II, Sergeant Belden enlisted in the Army at the age of seventeen. Two years later, he deployed to Korea as a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. On December 1, 1950, his unit was attacked by enemy forces in North Korean territory near the Chosin Reservoir. This attack occurred in the midst of a battle that would become the bloodiest seventeen days of the entire conflict. During this stretch, a massive enemy offensive comprising of over one hundred thousand Chinese communist troops forced the withdrawal of the much smaller United Nations coalition. This assault claimed the lives of at least one thousand American soldiers, including Sergeant Belden.

In the aftermath of the fighting, the Army listed Sergeant Belden as "unaccounted for" and informed his family that he was missing in action and presumed dead. Decades later, in August 2018, North Korea agreed to release the remains of fifty-five fallen American service members back to the United States. Sergeant Belden's remains were among those returned and were finally identified on October 14, 2021. To his family's relief, the Army reclassified his status to "accounted for" on that day.

In April 2022, Sergeant Belden will reach his final resting place in the Arlington National Cemetery, where he will be buried with full military honors. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I thank Sergeant Belden for his service and his sacrifice, and I am proud to honor his legacy of defending American liberty, freedom, and democracy.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER
GEORGE O. FULENWIDER, III,
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to Commander George O. Fulenwider, III of the United States Coast Guard, to honor his long and illustrious career. Commander Fulenwider began serving in the Coast Guard in January of 1984, when he enlisted as an E1. Upon graduating from basic training in Cape May, New Jersey, Commander

Fulenwider was stationed on the Coast Guard Cutter *UTE* based out of Key West, Florida and has been serving our great nation with dedication and honor ever since. His retirement after many years of service to the United States Coast Guard is extraordinary and is a testament to his love for our country.

During his very successful career, Commander Fulenwider spent 15 years on 8 different cutters with positions including Engineering Petty Officer (EPO), Main Propulsion Assistant (MPA) and Engineering Officer (EO). During his service, Commander Fulenwider supported various Coast Guard missions including: Port and Waterway Security, Drug Interdiction, Aids to Navigation, Search and Rescue, Living Marine Resources, Marine Safety, Defense Readiness, Migrant Interdiction, Marine Environmental Protection, Ice Operations and Law Enforcement.

Throughout his career, Commander Fulenwider was either directly involved in or supported nearly every mission and operation the Coast Guard was involved in during his tenure. This includes Operation Just Cause in Panama (December 1989 to January 1990), Operation Desert Shield (August 1990 to January 1991), the Gulf War (August 1990 to February 1991), Operation Enduring Freedom/Global War on Terrorism resulting from the September 11th attacks on America's World Trade Centers (October 2001 to December 2014). In addition, Commander Fulenwider responded to the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti that killed 250,000 people and displaced thousands of survivors.

During his dedicated time of service, Commander Fulenwider quickly rose through the ranks of Seaman Recruit-Fireman (E1-E3), Machinery Technician Third Class (MK3, E4), MK2 (E5), MK1 (E6), MKC (E7), Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CWO2), Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3), Lieutenant (LT, O3E), Lieutenant Commander (LCDR, O4), and finally Commander (O5). Furthermore, the U.S. Coast Guard afforded him the opportunity to obtain his Associate of Science in Naval Engineering from Trident Technical College located in North Charleston, South Carolina.

Commander Fulenwider has received countless awards and achievements during his illustrious career. These include the Meritorious Service Medal, numerous Coast Guard Commendation Medals, numerous Coast Guard Achievement medals and Commandants Letter of Commendation, The Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Coast Guard and Navy Unit Commendation amongst many more.

Currently, Commander Fulenwider is a Program Support Manager & Executive Officer at Project Resident Office Gulf Coast, assisting with the acquisition and construction of the Legend-Class National Security Cutters (NSC) at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The NSCs are the most technologically advanced ship in the Coast Guard's fleet, with capabilities for maritime homeland security, law enforcement and national security missions. The NSCs are the largest cutters in the Coast Guard fleet at 418 feet long and have a maximum speed of 28 knots with a range of 12,000 nautical miles; these cutters are equipped to carry a crew of 148 and can be out at sea for 3-6 months, projecting a U.S. presence around the globe, from the straits of Taiwan to the Black Sea.

Commander George O. Fulenwider, III will retire in Hubert, North Carolina with his high

school sweetheart and wife of 37 years, Nancy Fulenwider, who has supported his selfless career from the very beginning. The sacrifices they both have made to make this distinguishing career possible is simply admirable.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the retirement of this incredible and noble patriot and wishing Commander George O. Fulenwider, III, a happy retirement from his life of outstanding service to our country.

AIDE SABINAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aide Sabinas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Aide Sabinas is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aide Sabinas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aide Sabinas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING MICHAEL HARDAT AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Michael Hardat, a financial coach and youth advocate at the Financial Empowerment Center's Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families, as Iowan of the Week.

Michael is a Lifelong resident of the Des Moines metro area and a recent Iowa State University graduate. From a young age, Michael recognized that he and his family lacked the financial resources that others had. As a result, Michael began going to the Children and Family Urban Movement's programs. These programs made all the difference for Michael and helped him embrace the spirit of community support and betterment. Knowing he wanted to give back to the community, Michael began working with the Financial Empowerment Center. In his role, he has a direct hand in helping families make informed financial decisions and plan for a brighter future. During the pandemic when many families faced even greater struggles, he spoke out about how Iowans receiving the Child Tax Credit could most effectively use those funds to create positive outcomes.

Michael has been with the Financial Empowerment Center at Evelyn K. Davis since 2018. The organization helps connect people to career goals as well as achieve financial stability through job development, career coaching, workforce training, and financial education. Many of these free services have made all the difference for our neighbors in Des Moines. Michael is also still active with the Children and Family Urban Movement (CFUM) as an adult advocate. The non-profit strives to support the potential of Des Moines youth and families through educational success, healthy living, and community engagement. Michael firmly believes in CFUM's ability to lift up the community. He began publicly advocating for the program when he was still in high school and remains passionate about how individuals can come together to help one another, regardless of where they come from.

As we celebrate Black History Month, it is my honor to recognize Michael Hardat for the amazing work he is doing for families in greater Des Moines. Michael's selfless approach and dedication to helping others succeed are some of the many reasons he is a shining example of what it means to be an Iowan and a good neighbor. I will continue to fight in Congress to ensure every American has access to quality financial education and quality community programs. It is my pleasure to name Mr. Hardat Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEITH MOSS
FOR HIS SERVICE TO DURYEA,
PENNSYLVANIA AS MAYOR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor Duryea Mayor Keith Moss who retired from mayoral work in January after 20 years in office.

Keith, the son of the late George and Arlene Moss, was born and raised in Duryea, Pennsylvania along with his nine siblings. His interest in public service began as a young Boy Scout, and, at the age of 20, he joined the Germania Hose Company as a volunteer firefighter. He served the organization as president, vice president, and trustee.

Keith decided to run for Duryea council after his uncle, a councilman himself, suggested he would be a good fit for the job. In 1992, Keith ran for and was elected to Duryea Borough Council. During his time on the council, he worked closely with the Borough's police force, fostering a friendship with the late police chief Leonard Ash. It was Ash who first proposed the idea of running for mayor to Keith.

In 2001, a hallmark year for both Keith personally—he married his wife, Patricia—and for the Borough—it celebrated its centennial—he won the mayoral election. He confidently took on the office's duties of overseeing the police department, crafting the Borough budget, breaking vote ties at council meetings, and managing the Borough's public relations. In September 2011, when rain from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee flooded areas of Duryea, Keith helped his community work through the storm and its aftermath.

During his tenure as mayor, Keith worked to strengthen the sense of community in Duryea,

organizing the Borough's involvement in National Night Out to foster community-police camaraderie and the Borough's Halloween party. He worked diligently to grow the Borough's police force to four full-time officers. He also found great joy and fulfillment in performing weddings, marrying more than 500 couples during his time in office.

Keith took great pride in his mayoral work and sought to share the wisdom he acquired on the job, and also to learn from others. He served as the chair of the Pennsylvania State Mayors Association's Mayor of the Year Committee. He also regularly worked with mayors from Pittston, Hughesstown, West Pittston, and Old Forge.

In addition to his work as mayor, Keith has also been employed by the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport as a maintenance firefighter. He additionally has served his community as the treasurer of the Duryea Lions Club, president of Duryea Borough Sewer Authority, vice president of the Greater Pittston Cultural Coalition, and the president of the Luzerne County National Recreation Trail, and he continues to volunteer with the Germania Hose Company. For his efforts, Keith was recognized by the Sunday Dispatch with the Joseph Saporito Jr Lifetime of Service Award.

I am honored to join with the citizens of Duryea in honoring the two-decade tenure of their beloved mayor. Keith has been a beacon of strength and stability for the Borough and has helped the community navigate a changing world. I wish Keith all the best as he begins this next phase of his life. May he continue to feel inspired to share his time and talents with his community.

RECOGNIZING MR. FERNANDO
ALANIZ

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Fernando Alaniz, a father, husband, teacher, coach, and friend who unexpectedly passed away just a few weeks ago.

An immigrant from Guadalupe, Mexico, Mr. Alaniz came to the Central Valley when he was just 5 years old, settling in Wasco. He graduated from Wasco High School in 1991, where he excelled in both football and basketball, and helped lead his team to a Valley Championship.

After receiving a scholarship to play football at McPherson College, Fernando and his wife, Christine, moved back to the Central Valley of California to begin a family. After spending time working at Delano Joint Union High School, Mr. Alaniz began a job serving his community at the Kern County Sheriff's Office.

After earning his master's degree, Fernando began teaching computer science and keyboarding classes at McFarland High School. He quickly earned the respect of both his colleagues and his students, as they saw firsthand his dedication and passion for teaching.

Not only did Mr. Alaniz demonstrate his dedication to his students in the classroom, but he also showed that same level of commitment to his players. As the McFarland High

varsity basketball coach, Fernando instilled discipline, work ethic, and integrity into his players. He was committed to helping his players succeed and showing them how to win in a humble way. Under his strong leadership, the Cougars made numerous trips to the playoffs.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of a respected, beloved, and invaluable member of our community, Fernando Alaniz.

RODRIGO HERRERA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rodrigo Herrera for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Rodrigo Herrera is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rodrigo Herrera is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rodrigo Herrera for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
DAVE KISHLER UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM NETSMART

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Dave Kishler, a Senior Industry Relations Strategist at Netsmart. The company provides health information technology solutions to tens of thousands of public and private nonprofit mental health, human services and senior service organizations throughout the United States serving millions of Americans with mental illnesses, substance use disorders and other disabilities. Dave announced his retirement from Netsmart at the end of 2021 after a rich and extremely productive 30-year career with the company.

Among many other duties, Dave was responsible for Netsmart's relationships with patient advocacy organizations and trade associations representing Community Mental Health Centers, providers of rehabilitation services for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and home care providers serving seniors. But I got to know Dave during our work together on legislative amendments to 42 CFR Part 2—a outdated federal privacy law that inhibited the sharing of clinical information for persons with major substance use disorders.

When one of the committees I serve on—the House Energy & Commerce Committee—held public hearings to examine the real-world impact of the law, Dave assisted my office and committee staff in truly understanding how “Part 2” obstructed the exchange of clinical data that made care coordination for people with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) nearly impossible. Because of his diligent efforts and the patient stories he brought to our attention, the Congress ultimately passed legislative amendments in the CARES Act that facilitated the exchange of vital information among hospitals, residential treatment centers and community-based providers. Once implemented, I am convinced that these statutory changes will save lives.

By reflecting on Dave’s career, we recognize both his enormous personal contributions as well as the tremendous value of public-private partnerships in improving the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. I thank Dave, and congratulate him on this significant milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE IN ALBANY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women who have served and currently serve at the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) in Albany, Georgia. On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, base personnel, Armed Services veterans, and local dignitaries will celebrate the facility’s 70th anniversary.

Over the last 70 years, the brave men and women who have served at MCLB, Albany have made significant contributions in defending our homeland and safeguarding our liberties.

On March 1, 1952, MCLB, Albany was commissioned as the Marine Corps Depot of Supplies. By 1954 the station was sufficiently complete with warehouses and administration buildings to assume supply support for Marines east of the Rocky Mountains and in the Atlantic area. In 1967, the base became a storage Activity and Depot Maintenance Activity.

On January 17, 1990, the Commandant of the Marine Corps designated the Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany to also be Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Bases. The reorganization placed control of Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, California; Blount Island Command, Jacksonville, Florida, as well as Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany under this single command.

In 2005, the Marine Corps regionalized all installations under Marine Corps Installation Command, and the organization here was divided into a base command (MCLB Albany) and Marine Corps Logistics Command.

Over the last several decades, MCLB, Albany has provided exceptional support to the Marine Air Ground Task Forces sent to Southwest Asia. The MCLB, Albany military and civilian team’s hard work and dedication, combined with equal efforts from MCLB, Barstow and Blount Island Command have reaped out-

standing results for our Nation’s Armed Services.

In 2021, MCLB, Albany won in the Fiscal Year 2021 SECNAV Energy Excellence Award’s small installation category for its achievements in policy implementation, reductions in energy and water intensity, cybersecurity, and overall commitment to energy security planning. This vital Net Zero Initiative from MCLB, Albany reduced the energy cost aboard the installation and helped the base nearly reach its goal in FY 2020 of covering all critical building energy loads in the event of an outage by increasing its sources of on-site generation.

Madam Speaker, I have had the pleasure of traveling to many U.S. military installations around the world and the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia is one of the finest military bases I have ever had the pleasure of visiting.

Through my ongoing interaction with MCLB, Albany personnel, one of the things I have come to admire about our nation’s Marines is that their commitment to serving our country does not end once they separate from Active Duty. In their everyday life and actions off base, the personnel at MCLB, Albany have remained faithful to serving their fellow Marines, their community, and their nation. They have truly exemplified the U.S. Marine Corp’s motto, Semper Fidelis.

MCLB, Albany Marines hold themselves to a higher standard—that service to our Nation is a lifelong commitment, not just a tour of duty.

Whether it is going on to work as policemen, fire fighters, teachers, or business professionals, a MCLB, Albany Marine’s commitment to making our nation better remains at the fundamental core of what not only makes them great during their Armed Services career, but what will also make them invaluable members of our society once their military careers end and their transition into civilian life begins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to the men and women who have served at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia over the last 70 years and those who currently serve today for their outstanding valor and patriotic service.

MADYLIN DICKEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Madylin Dickey for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Madylin Dickey is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Madylin Dickey is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Madylin Dickey for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE L.A. CHINATOWN FIRECRACKER RUN COMMITTEE, INC.

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee, Inc. (LACFRC) on 44 years of service to the district.

LACFRC is a non-profit organization composed of a group of volunteers who donate their time and energy to organize and stage events and programs promoting healthy lifestyles, fitness, and cultural awareness to the greater Los Angeles community.

This organization hosts the annual Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker 5/10K Run/Walk which is the largest and longest-running Lunar New Year charity run in the United States. Today, because of LACFRC’s dedication it has expanded its events to include a bike ride, kiddie run and paw’er dog walk.

All proceeds are reinvested into the community, in support of elementary schools and nonprofit organizations, providing services and programs to those in need. LACFRC has contributed more than \$500,000 to local elementary schools and non-profit community organizations.

Although, the pandemic prevented an in-person event this year, LACFRC has stood by its mission: “to promote health and fitness, education, cultural awareness and community involvement” by hosting virtual events.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee, Inc.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICK CUNNINGHAM OXFORD

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Patrick Cunningham Oxford, of Houston, Texas. He passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at the age of 79.

Patrick was born in Beaumont, Texas, to Hubert and Virginia Oxford. He attended Catholic school in Beaumont, graduating from St. Anthony’s Catholic High School. Patrick grew up playing football and baseball and working for his father’s business, Oxford Building Material, LLC. As he got older, Patrick’s love of baseball never faded. His friends and family cherished his knowledge of the game, its history, and his ability to make analogies of many situations in life or business to the game of baseball.

Patrick and I attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a Bachelor

of Business Administration with honors in 1966 and a law degree with honors in 1967. He was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the Texas Cowboys, an honorary student organization. While in law school, Patrick was the Managing Editor of the Texas Law Review and a member of the Friar Society. In 1997, he was appointed to serve on the Board of Regents for the University of Texas System for a six-year term. He also chaired the Health Affairs Committee, which oversaw the operations of six health institutions within the University of Texas System.

In 1973, Patrick joined the firm of Bracewell & Patterson, now known as Bracewell LLP, and immediately became its 13th partner. He specialized in business and transactional law at the firm, focusing on real estate, energy, and banking. Later, Patrick served as Managing Partner and led the opening of the firm's New York City office. Patrick took great pride and interest in recruiting and mentoring young lawyers at the firm; he genuinely cared and was a brilliant attorney who loved to share his passion for the law with others.

Patrick believed that Houston's business leaders had an obligation to further the city's success. He took an active role in many civic and business organizations, including Chairman, the Greater Houston Partnership; Director, M.D. Anderson Services Corporation; Chairman Emeritus, Texas Medical Center, Inc.; Advisory Board Member, Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University; and Board Member, the Kinder Institute for Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri.

Patrick believed deeply in the ideals outlined by our Founding Fathers and in our constitutional system. He spent hours assisting candidates he believed would improve the city, state, and country. In fact, Patrick twice served as chairman of the campaign committee for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and was a leader in the gubernatorial and presidential campaigns of George W. Bush. He also served as counsel for many statewide and local officeholders in Texas.

Patrick was a man of deep faith. He attended Mass daily at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Houston and served as a Eucharistic Minister and Continuing Catholic Education (CCE) teacher. He also contributed to the educational and service ministries of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Patrick is survived by his wife of 32 years, Katie Oxford; his daughters, Elizabeth Pagan and Virginia Fleming; his sons-in-law, Greer Pagan and Lee Fleming; his grandson, Charlie Pagan; his brothers, Hubert Oxford III and Denis Oxford; his sister, Virginia Thompson; his sister-in-law, Canice Garth and her husband, David; his brothers-in-law, Kit Herrington and Tommy Herrington; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Patrick is preceded in death by his parents, Hubert and Virginia, and sister, Mary Englander.

Madam Speaker, it is a special privilege to honor my dear friend, Patrick Cunningham Oxford, who devoted his life to serving others. The Houston community will not forget him or his significant impact on the city, and my heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

LORENZO BALDIZAN-MORALEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lorenzo Baldizan-Moralez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Lorenzo Baldizan-Moralez is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lorenzo Baldizan-Moralez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lorenzo Baldizan-Moralez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF NOAH CLAY,
GUEST FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE'S
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
FOR THE STATE OF THE
UNION ADDRESS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Clay from Keene, New Hampshire. Noah is joining me virtually for the State of the Union. Noah is an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurse who has been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Granite State. I am pleased to honor Noah's commitment and that of his colleagues to the well-being of our communities and their tireless work to save lives during the pandemic.

Mr. Clay, a native of Keene, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Colby-Sawyer College in 2020 and completed his Masters in Nursing Management from Colby-Sawyer College in 2022. Noah is an early career Registered Nurse who came directly into the ICU specialty in 2020.

It's impossible to overstate the essential role of our Granite State health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout every surge and every variant, they have been on the frontlines, putting themselves in harm's way to save lives and push back against this deadly virus. Our state and our country would not be where we are without them. Noah and his fellow health care workers are the true heroes behind America's progress, and I'm proud to uplift their stories.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank our health care heroes for all they do. I look forward to our continued work in Congress to ensure New Hampshire is the best place to live, work and raise a family.

HONORING LEANNE KIM DO

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Leanne Kim Do, from Seattle, Washington.

Today, on the day of President Biden's State of the Union Address, we celebrate the bold and progressive accomplishments that have bolstered our economy and served as a critical lifeline for families and small business owners across our nation. I am proud to have worked alongside President Biden to enact the American Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, two landmark pieces of legislation that invest in our communities and create good paying jobs for Americans.

Leanne, a writing skills teacher and working mother of three young children, was a direct recipient of the Child Tax Credit and is a testament to the real differences these payments have made in the lives of Americans. Both Leanne and her spouse, Nathan, uplift the brilliance of marginalized communities in their work but neither were provided with paid family leave to welcome their third child into their family. The Child Tax Credit payments allowed them to take much needed time off without worrying about how they were going to pay their bills or having to leave their cause-driven professions for higher pay.

This past year we have made critical investments in vaccine distribution, rental and nutrition assistance, grants to small businesses, and funding for schools and child care facilities. It is imperative that we keep this momentum up and continue to deliver for families, like Leanne's, across our Nation.

LACY SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lacy Smith for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Lacy Smith is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lacy Smith is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lacy Smith for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE THOMAS MUNLEY FOR HIS SERVICE TO LACKAWANNA COUNTY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor Judge Thomas J. Munley who, after 16 years on the bench, recently retired from the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas. Judge Munley is beloved by his colleagues and community as a fair and skilled jurist who treats everyone with respect and dignity.

A native Northeastern Pennsylvanian, Judge Munley graduated from Jessup High School in 1964. He continued his studies at East Stroudsburg University, graduating in 1968 with a degree in education. Judge Munley returned to his hometown to teach at his alma mater from 1968 to 1969. In 1969, he was drafted to serve in the Army and was sent to Vietnam on an 11-month tour as an infantryman with the 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. For his meritorious service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

After returning home from military service in 1971, Judge Munley enrolled in law school at Loyola University Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana. He earned his JD and was admitted into the Pennsylvania Bar in 1974. From 1976 to 1979, he served as Assistant Public Defender in Lackawanna County. In 1979, Judge Munley founded his own law practice and was renowned as a fiercely competent defense attorney, a formidable opponent in the courtroom.

In 2005, after 25 years at his own practice, Judge Munley ran for the seat on the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas. He won the Democratic and Republican nominations in the May primary and easily prevailed in the November election. Judge Munley quickly earned the respect of his colleagues on the court, building on his acclaimed reputation as an attorney. The integrity and principle with which he conducted himself on the bench led his colleagues to elect him president-judge in 2011.

Inspired by his own time in the service and his experience as a veteran, Judge Munley has been a longtime, fierce advocate for veterans and their families. Since 2014, he has hosted the popular television program "Veterans Views" on NBC/WBRE-TV which aims to inform those who have served about the benefits and services to which they are entitled. He often receives a deluge of calls after the show from veterans seeking assistance, and he diligently calls them back. He is also a proud member of the American Legion and the VFW.

On January 1, 2022, Judge Munley retired to senior status as required by Pennsylvania's mandatory retirement age of 75. In his role of senior judge, he will serve in every county where the state Supreme Court grants him authority to hear matters. He also plans to continue his work on behalf of veterans and their families in his retirement.

I am honored to recognize the judicial career and lifetime of public service of Judge Thomas Munley. It is a privilege to call him a colleague in the legal profession, and I join with the entirety of Lackawanna County in

thanking him for his service to his country and his community. May he continue to find fulfillment and purpose in this new chapter of his life.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FOR JONES ACT VESSELS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to allow operators of Jones Act-compliant passenger ferries to establish Capital Construction Funds. Only car ferries are currently eligible for this special, tax-exempt domestic shipbuilding program administered by the Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Federally regulated Capital Construction Funds allow operators of US-flagged vessels to legally forgo paying federal business taxes pertaining to such vessels, provided all that forgone tax payment is reinvested in constructing new US-flagged vessels in American shipyards.

Current law only allows operators of cargo and fishing vessels to establish Capital Construction Funds for such vessels. Car ferries are only eligible because they are treated as "cargo vessels" for the purposes of the program, not ferries. Under my bill, all ferries and similar vessels with 50-plus passenger capacity would be eligible to establish Capital Construction Funds.

Through my tenure in the Congress, I have worked to increase federal funding for expanded passenger ferry service. Regrettably, Congress has historically underfunded the Federal Highway Administration's formula program and the Federal Transit Administration's competitive grant program for ferries, ferry terminals, and related infrastructure. Privately operated passenger ferries remain ineligible under both U.S. Department of Transportation programs.

Both public and private operators are working to expand service in the San Francisco Bay Area. My legislation is intended to support proposed service expansion by private ferry operators in the Bay Area and nationwide, at no cost to American taxpayers. Many Bay Area ferry operators are also considering replacing their existing fleets with new renewable energy-powered ferries, like hydrogen fuel cells. Those ferries can and should be built in American shipyards by skilled workers.

Madam Speaker, I plan to make this legislation a priority in the forthcoming Coast Guard Authorization Act for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

EMILIA LINGAD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emilia Lingad for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Emilia Lingad is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her

determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emilia Lingad is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emilia Lingad for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution supporting the designation of International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women on the twenty-fifth day of November.

According to the World Health Organization, 1 in 3 women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. This figure does not include sexual harassment, and reports show that less than 40 percent of women who experience violence report it or seek help. Around the world, women and girls are being denied access to education and are politically and economically oppressed. Economic and political marginalization leaves women and girls all the more vulnerable to experiencing violence. We cannot be silent in the face of such injustice and violence. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in the face of injustices.

As we enter Women's History Month, the United States and the international community have an obligation to lend support and assistance to those suffering from violence and oppression, both abroad and at home. There are many critical factors that contribute to violence against women. Of all the women murdered in the United States, about 63 percent were killed by an intimate partner. Acts of violence as a result of war—especially physical abuse, sexual assault, and trafficking—disproportionately affect women of color. It is estimated that up to half a million women were raped during the Rwandan 1994 genocide. Furthermore, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, close to 60,000 women were raped during the war in which violence against women was used as a strategic tool of ethnic cleansing. That should never happen again. We must stand with women worldwide—this is unacceptable.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is commemorated to share women stories and educate communities about the percentage of women who experience violence, who lack access to education afforded to men[?], and how they face political and economic marginalization. The United Nations General Assembly observes International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women each year. My resolution expresses support for the designation of

the twenty-fifth day of November as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges of women facing threats and violence.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women's designation on the twenty-fifth day of November to better support the millions of women affected by violence. I urge the House to support this resolution.

HONORING ALLISON BOETTCHER

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my guest for

the State of the Union address, Allison Boettcher.

President Joe Biden and House Democrats are building a better America. The American Rescue Plan put our economy back on track with historic job growth and the fastest recovery of any of the world's leading economies; and small business owners across the nation, like Allison, have persevered and survived with assistance from President Biden and Democrats.

Allison is the founder of Blue Mountain Coffee House, a small business in Florida's 21st Congressional District. Raised in Jamaica, Allison has been passionate about the Caribbean—the culture, the community, and the coffee. In January 2020, she committed to sharing that love with her neighbors in West Palm Beach, and her fresh roasted coffee from Jamaica's Blue Mountains has become a local staple.

Like so many small business owners across the country, Allison found herself struggling

when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and was able to withstand the economic fallout from the pandemic. With the help of the Paycheck Protection Program and Restaurant Revitalization Fund, crucial provisions in The American Rescue Plan, Allison's business stayed open and kept employees safe and on payroll.

For the people of West Palm Beach, Allison's Blue Mountain Coffee House is much more than a café, it is a place where people feel at home. Her tenacity and desire to serve the people of West Palm Beach is truly inspiring. I am grateful for her contributions and look forward to her continued success.